

## Saving Birds, One Window at a Time

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MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### BBA3

Meet Gabriel Foley, Project Coordinator for the next BBA

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Artist Lynne Parks Gives Speech at Patuxent Ribbon Cutting

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The Maryland Yellowthroat

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Editor's Note

Outdoor cats, window strikes, clear cutting, land development...what do they all have in common? The threat they pose to birds. Since assuming the role of editor for The Maryland Yellowthroat, in 2018, I have sought to feature stories about bird-related conservation issues. Whether the stories are about peregrines making a comeback, proposed land deals that would negatively impact birds, the ecological harm caused by outdoor cats, or the bird deaths caused by untreated windows, my intention is to curate content that is actionable.

The four stories in this issue encompass my intentions: ten-year-old, Nara Anusonti-Inthra writes about her entry in the World Series of Birding which highlights, for the rest of us, the importance of raising a generation of conservation conscious individuals; artist Lynne Parks shares with us her speech at the ribbon cutting ceremony for her bird-safe window work at the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor Center, showcasing that agencies are listening and want to do more for birds; Gabriel Foley, BBA3 project coordinator, invites us all to take action by participating in the next five-year long atlas in MD/DC; and our President, Robin Todd, shares with us current events directly related to MOS properties and ways in which members can get involved.

With the support of the executive council and the MOS membership, I will continue to solicit these types of stories. Together we can make Maryland an even more hospitable place for birds and the other flora and fauna that we value. Thank you for all that you do for birds and bird conservation in Maryland (and abroad).

I wish each of you all the target birds on your 2020 lists!

Orietta C. Estrada, Editor  
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# Carey Run Update

On September 6 I drove up to Garrett County to take part in the work weekend which Dominic Nucifora had organized for the Carey Run Sanctuary. Dominic, Paul Bystrak, Jeff Effinger, and Dotty Mumford were already all hard at work when I arrived. Melissa Hensel arrived shortly afterwards. It was a bright sunny, late summer day. Dotty had just spotted a black-billed cuckoo, so the day was off to a good start.

### Proposed Enhancement for Brook Trout

I was interested to learn about a proposal from Trout Unlimited (TU) and DNR to enhance the Carey Run (i.e., the stream itself) for brook trout. Soon after we had finished a hearty lunch, at the picnic table below the house, Seth Moessinger of TU and Matt Sell of DNR's fisheries division, arrived to brief us on this matter.

### The Plight of Brook Trout and the Role of Carey Run

Although I briefly mentioned the brook trout proposal at our September Board meeting, it deserves further discussion and consideration.

Seth and Matt explained that Carey Run is part of the largest remaining stream habitat in the state that still harbors brook trout. These fish are prized for their beauty, for being the only species of trout native to the eastern US and for the pristine locations where they occur. DNR only allows catch-and-release fishing of this fish in the Upper Savage River drainage. This species requires cool streams, indeed their scientific name, *Salvelinus fontinalis*, means 'dweller of springs'. Ideally water temperatures should not exceed 20°C (68°F); because cooler water can carry more dissolved oxygen. The range of the brook trout has shrunk by 62% in Maryland. Significant populations remain only in the Upper Gunpowder Falls drainage, the Catoctins and Garrett County. The causes of this decline include development, stream pollution (especially from mines) and loss of the trees which shade and cool the streams. Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) are especially important as shade trees; these have been decimated by the invasive wooly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) an aphid. A more insidious long-term threat is presented by climate change.

Using a non-lethal electro-shocking technique, DNR's Alan Heft, has confirmed the presence of brook trout in Carey Run below the ponds near the Savage River, where he found multiple year classes, including 'abundant young of the year trout', indicating a breeding population. He found no trout upstream of the ponds, only two species of minnow; blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*) and creek chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*). This is clear evidence that the dams are preventing colonization of the upper stretch of Carey Run.

Carey Run is therefore an important part of the brook trout's survival in Maryland. However, Seth noted that the stream could be enhanced for brook trout in two ways. The greatest enhancement concerns the large pond, which was created when MOS bought the property in 1962. This body of water acts as a heat reservoir so that water downstream is appreciably warmer than would otherwise be the case. In addition, beavers have rather recently created a smaller pond immediately downstream of the MOS pond. Seth had installed three temperature data loggers to record stream water temperatures over an extended period. These devices were located at the following stream sites: above the ponds, below the ponds, and below the confluence with the neighboring Hefner Run. This stream is comparable to Carey Run, but lacks any ponds and thus can be expected to have lower water temperatures. The data loggers were left in place from June 1 until September 1, 2019. Table 1 shows the results.

Table 1. Results of water temperature monitoring in Carey Run from June 1 to September 1, 2019.

Site	Max Temp°C	Total Hours >20°C	Longest Duration >20°C	Hours >22°C
Upstream of pond	20.63	14.00	7.67	0
Downstream of pond	26.06	813.67	38.00	67.33
Downstream of confluence	22.99	193.33	22.00	9.00

Clearly the ponds increase water temperatures, with higher maximum values and longer periods when they exceeded the critical 20°C threshold, being recorded downstream (but above the confluence with Hefner Run). There was a similar trend for the more harmful 22°C. Water temperatures below the confluence with Hefner Run were lower than

immediately below the ponds, with lower maxima and briefer periods above 20°C, thereby indicating the mitigating effect of the undammed stream.

A lesser impediment to brook trout is the culvert which carries Carey Run beneath the gravel road. It is narrow and is elevated above the stream bed so that fish passage can only occur when the stream floods. Brook trout need to be able to move freely up and down the stream, to avoid higher temperatures as well as to find food and to spawn. Data obtained from Maryland brook trout have shown that they will travel more than 6 miles.

### Two Proposed Enhancements

Firstly, both ponds would be removed. This would require a backhoe or similar heavy equipment. A temporary culvert or pipe would divert the stream around the work area. The silt, which has accumulated behind the main dam, would need to be removed since simply

allowing it to flush down the stream would be harmful to any brook trout. This silt could be spread to create fertile areas nearby; it should be rich in nutrients. Some of this silt is the result of run off from farm fields which are upstream, but the farmer who is working this land is using contour ploughing, which is best practice for minimizing erosion. The beds of the ponds could be allowed to re-vegetate naturally or they could be planted with native trees such as hemlocks. Natural succession should result in hemlock woodland.

If we wanted to preserve the beaver pond, a compromise solution would be to leave it in place and divert the stream around it, thus reducing its potential to raise stream water temperatures. Even if the beaver pond was removed, the beavers might build another dam and create a new pond.

Secondly, the culvert should be replaced with a wider passageway under the gravel road, located a few yards further down the valley. The floor of this passageway would need to be lower than existing one.

This work on the ponds and the culvert should be conducted between April and June since brook trout spawn in the Fall.

#### **Negative Effects of the Proposed Enhancements**

These proposed enhancements for brook trout would probably be detrimental to certain other wildlife, such as any amphibians that breed in the pond. River otters, solitary sandpipers and wood duck, all of which have been observed by MOS members, would miss the pond.

#### **MOS Decision**

Should MOS decide to approve these enhancements, it is unclear who would bear the cost — MOS, and/or DNR, or by other sources via one of these two entities. We would need a written agreement with TU and DNR to document terms and conditions. We would need to determine whether or not any obligations came with acceptance of the proposal.

Matt and Seth advised that, if MOS decided to go ahead this year, work would probably not start until 2020.

If you have any comments or questions, please send them to Dominic ([d.nucifora@yahoo.com](mailto:d.nucifora@yahoo.com)) and myself. Also, if you have already decided that you are definitely for or against this proposal, please also let us know. I am hoping that we can discuss this matter and perhaps even reach a decision, at our December 7, board meeting.

#### **New Roof And Tree Felling**

The house is in need of a new roof. Dominic is seeking quotes for this work. If the existing roof is not replaced, we risk damaging the interior when leaks eventually occur.

There are several trees which are leaning over the upstream end of the house which need to be severely pruned or felled. Dominic is also looking for quotes for this work. Since access for equipment is not easy, this could be a challenging job. I expect the cost of these two items of upkeep to be considerable.

#### **Trespassing**

Trespassing is a problem at the sanctuary, mostly by people on ATVs. They do this quite openly, entering from neighboring properties, rather than the entrance road. Since MOS does not have anyone on site and the area is remote, such activities are difficult to deter. We could install signs warning against trespassing so that, if anyone is found trespassing, there could be no excuse of ignorance. Perhaps the most practical solution would be to talk to the ATV folk and explain our goals for the sanctuary, insist that they need to keep to established trails, and enlist their sympathy and even support.

Best regards,



Robin Todd, President MOS

#### References

Bay Journal, September 27, 2019

[file:///Volumes/ICR\\_RTDOCS/President's%20Corner%20-%20Nov-Dec%202019/Carey%20Run%20copy/Bay%20Journal%20-%20Article%20brook%20trout.htm](file:///Volumes/ICR_RTDOCS/President's%20Corner%20-%20Nov-Dec%202019/Carey%20Run%20copy/Bay%20Journal%20-%20Article%20brook%20trout.htm)

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#### **Place Your Announcement in *The Yellowthroat***

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Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

# feather underground

## Feather Underground blog takes flight....and more from MBCP

The new blog from the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP), *Feather Underground*, took flight in September. Written by Pamela Kellett, *Feather Underground* is an eclectic mix of news, thoughts, experiences, and getting to meet and talk to the many people in Maryland who are passionate about birds. We will highlight partners of MBCP and others who have an interesting and unique perspective on birds and conservation efforts in the state. Check out *Feather Underground* at <https://marylandbirds.org/feather-underground>.

*Frontiers in Ornithology: A Symposium for Youth* (<https://www.frontiers-in-ornithology.org/>) took place on September 28! The 74 youth attendees (high school through college) took away a ton of information on career options and new technologies being used in ornithology and conservation. They also had lots of time for one-on-one interaction with some of the leaders in field. The Frontiers Committee wants to extend sincere THANK YOU to financial sponsorships from MOS, Baltimore Bird Club, and Montgomery Bird Club!

Speaking of symposia, the second *Maryland Bird Conservation Symposium* will be held Saturday, January 25, 2020, at the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor Center in Laurel. Catch the latest updates and registration information at <https://marylandbirds.org/2020-bird-conservation-symposium>, including a possible special session on Friday afternoon/evening.

The *Maryland Avian Research and Conservation (MARC) Fund for Youth* began accepting applications from youth in September. Please visit <https://marylandbirds.org/about-the-marc-fund> for

more information on this exciting new program. Applicants can submit grant proposals in one of more of the three focus areas: Research/Monitoring, Conservation, and Community Engagement. The MARC Fund committee is committed to assisting applicants throughout the entire application process and, if awarded a grant, their entire project. The committee is comprised of (in alphabetical order):

Wayne Bell, Ph.D. – YMOS and Center for Environment & Society at Washington College

Chris Eberly – MBCP

Maren Gimpel – Center for Environment & Society at Washington College

Autumn-Lynn Harrison, Ph.D. – Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center; YMOS alumna

Patrick Newcombe – Sidwell Friends School; current YMOS member

George Radcliffe – YMOS

Bird City Maryland (<https://birdcitymaryland.org/>) should have its first recipients by the end of 2019. We are closely watching a friendly competition between one candidate city and the county in which they reside! If your community is taking positive actions that benefit nature, people, and birds please consider applying for Bird City Maryland status!

Chris Eberly, MBCP

[director@marylandbirds.org](mailto:director@marylandbirds.org)

## Renew Your Membership Online

The MOS membership year ends August 31, 2019. We encourage you to renew your MOS and chapter membership for 2019-2020 online via the MOS website. Renewing online allows you to efficiently pay dues, update your address and select several options.

To renew please visit <https://mdbirds.org/login/>. You'll be asked for your email address, which is your MOS userID and password. If you've never logged in or if you've forgotten your password, request a password reset (click "Forgot Password") and follow the directions, then log in after receiving a temporary password.

After successfully logging in, select "Join" from the menu bar, then "Members Only", and finally "Account". On the

Account page, there are several options: "Home" will show your personal information and selections that you may update, while the "Subscription" selection will show you a table of your memberships. To the right side of the table you'll see the word "Renew" which, when clicked, shows dues for your membership level and also your account information again. At the bottom of the page click "Register" to redirect you to a PayPal page. Make sure you click "Pay Now" on the PayPal page to complete your transaction. That's it, but please contact me at [webmaster@mdbirds.org](mailto:webmaster@mdbirds.org) if you have difficulties with these steps. MOS thanks you for renewing—online or via your local chapter.

Tom Strikwerda, Webmaster

Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report

October 9, 2019

The Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) reached the following record decisions since the latest committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review package 181. MD/DCRC report numbers are shown in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. There were no new "state" species for MD or DC in these decisions. The total number of species on the Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC remain 453 and 341, respectively.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web page at the following URL:

<https://mdbirds.org/records-committee/>

**MD Records Accepted:**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*** [MD/2019-066] Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Lexington Park, Saint Mary's County. 28-May-2019. Sixteen birds.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*** [MD/2019-055] Merritt Point Park, Dundalk, Baltimore County. 30-May-2019 through 09-Jun-2019. One bird.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*** [MD/2019-060] Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory, Kingstown, Queen Anne's County. 12-Jun-2019. Five birds.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*** [MD/2019-061] McDonogh Pond, Randallstown, Baltimore County. 18-Jun-2019. Nine birds.

**Limpkin, *Aramus guarauna*** [MD/2019-065] Oxon Hill, Prince George's County. 17-Jul-2019. One bird.

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*** [MD/2014-078] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 17-Aug-1991. One bird.

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*** [MD/2010-148] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 20-Aug-2010. Five birds.

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*** [MD/2012-080] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 25-Aug-

2012. One hundred twenty-eight birds.

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*** [MD/2013-033] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 30-Jul-2013. Eighteen birds.

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*** [MD/2013-058] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 31-Jul-2013. Four birds.

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*** [MD/2013-055] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 31-Jul-2013. Two birds.

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*** [MD/2013-059] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 17-Aug-2013. Forty-two (42) birds.

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*** [MD/2016-033] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 04-Jun-2016. One bird.

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*** [MD/2016-037] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 21-Aug-2016. Up to 81 birds recorded during the pelagic.

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*** [MD/2018-003] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 20-Aug-2017. Twenty-five birds.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus*** [MD/2019-054] Conquest Preserve, Centreville, Queen Anne's County. 30-May-2019. One bird.

**LeConte's Sparrow, *Ammospiza leconteii*** [MD/2019-056] Davidson Farm Lane, Stevensville, Queen Anne's County. 21-Dec-2017 through 07-Apr-2018. One bird.

**MD Records Not Accepted:**

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*** [MD/2010-004] Chesapeake Bay, Scotland, Saint Mary's County. 13-Jul-2006. One bird.

Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

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**YMOS News Fall 2019****How We Discovered the WSB**

By Nara Anusonti-Inthra, Harford County, Age 10

The World Series of Birding (WSB) sounded really cool, and my brother and I decided to form an elementary school team with me, Nara (10), as the captain, Alina (10) as the co-captain, my brother Tyme (7), Annie (6), and Rodney the Bear (an honorary member—he's a stuffed bear). Our team was called the PeaKakapo Kites as a combination of a Peacock, a Kakapo, and a Snail Kite. It was a combination of beauty, rarity, and adaptability respectively. We set a goal for 100 species and before we knew it, scouting day was approaching.

**Scouting Day, May 10**

We started to bird at around 5 a.m. at a marsh. We heard and saw waterfowl and marsh songbirds. As we were driving to the next location, which was the Seawatch, we heard Alina cry out "Chicken, big Chicken on the side!!" "That's too big to be a Chicken," replied Annie, suddenly curious about what the mysterious creature was. My brother looked back and said, "I think it is a Turkey in the middle of the road."

We all agreed it was a Turkey which became one of our first birds we found that day. At the Seawatch, we didn't see many migrating shorebirds and we decided to go down into the sand. We played run away from the waves, just like Sanderlings. That was one of our favorite games to play when we were near the water as a team.

Scouting day was a success! Now we know where many of the birds were and we got about 75 species of birds. We went to the house where the high school teams were staying and had a pizza party. It wasn't a very long one though, we had to go to sleep at 8 p.m. so we could wake up early for the big day.

**The Big Day, May 11**

We woke up at 3 a.m. when it was still pitch-black outside. We started birding at 5 a.m. in Pond Creek Marsh. A ½ mile hike through swampy ground stood between us and the birds awakening with the morning sun. We heard many birds and met one of the high school YMOS carbon free teams which were biking. Their mentor was Dr. Bell, and we decided to cheer him on because he was behind the high school kids. "Go Dr. Bell! Go Dr. Bell!"

We found Chuck-will's-widow, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Eastern Kingbird, and the Field Sparrow, just to name a few. We went to the Seawatch and found many more species such as the Merlin, a Northern Gannet, many gulls and terns, a lot of migrating shorebirds, and some songbirds. By early morning, we had about 75 species! This day was a better day for migration.

At Heislerville, we found plovers and other shorebirds condensed into groups. There were so many we couldn't count them all. On the way to our next stop, we found a pond next to a car dealership, and we thought there was a bird there. "Is that an Egret right there?" shouted Tyme as he pointed at the pond. We got out of the car and found that Tyme was right! We found a

Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Great Egret, and best of all, a Killdeer with babies!

Nearing the end of the day, we went to a spot where you could see a Peregrine Falcon underneath a bridge. As we were looking for the Falcon, a heron flew overhead. It was a Green Heron! After that, we looked through our spotting scopes for the Peregrine Falcon and found it on one of the bridge supports.

While we were driving and were almost crossing the bridge to Nummy Island, we saw a game bird crossing the road. It was a Clapper Rail! It went halfway across the road and then retreated into the bushes because of an approaching car. Then, it went ¾ across the road until it saw a predator! It tried to run but realized it couldn't outrun the predator. It flew off. That is a very rare sight to see a Clapper Rail, much less see it fly.

At Stone Harbor Point, we found a Purple Sandpiper, which was rare. Because of that great find, we were able to play sanderling in the waves for a while. At the Wawa's we saw the nesting Yellow Crowned Night Herons, and we had some delicious ice cream! As we were driving to our last stop, the marsh, I said, "It is so weird that we didn't find a Pigeon yet." Alina replied, "We are in the city right now, we should look for Pigeons near houses." "What is that?" shouted Tyme. "I think it's a Pigeon!" A Rock Pigeon sitting on a roof set off a celebration in the car. I wondered if the people outside could hear us, and, if so, what would they think of some kids inside a car shouting, "We found a Pigeon."

Our last stop was the marsh where we started on scouting day, and we saw a mysterious duck-like creature. "What is that duck-like creature?" I asked to my teammates. "It looks like a Wigeon!" exclaimed Tyme. "I agree," said Alina. "Yes, I wish we could find one more bird," commented Alina, and suddenly a Chimney Swift swooped overhead. "You only have 2 minutes left," said Mr. George. "We can't find any more species," I replied, "but there were more ducks behind us." We looked at one duck, and Alina shouted, "It's not a Mallard!"

As the clock ticked down to 1 minute left, we were closely inspecting the duck while the light continued to fade, making it harder to identify the duck species. As the last bit of light faded, Tyme shouted, "It's a Gadwall!" I added it to our list just as 8 p.m. hit its mark.

We found 105 species! That was past our goal of 100! We got into the car ecstatic at our accomplishment. We were anxious as we walked into the finish line. We looked at the score board and we found out that we had 60 more species than the other elementary school team! We won 1<sup>st</sup> place! Something that mattered more than winning First place at that moment was the food! After dinner we headed back to the motel still happy about 105 species.

Birds from the WSB taught me many important life lessons and why we should save them. Some of us know that there is a mass extinction going on right now, and some scientists even call it the Sixth extinction. I think we should all take action to save the



American Bird Conservancy estimates that nearly one billion bird deaths occur each year due to window strikes. Over 40 percent of these strikes happen when birds collide with buildings that are one to three stories tall — treating windows no matter how close to ground level prevents collisions. Patuxent Research Refuge recognizes untreated windows as a major threat to birds and has taken steps to address this issue at its National Wildlife Visitor Center. What follows is a speech written by artist Lynne Parks, which was delivered in front of an audience at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the bird-safe window film treatment that she and her husband, Chris Siron, designed for the center. — Editor

Who else can say they've cut a ribbon for a building with a blue goose mascot named "Puddles"? We had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the bird-safe window film treatment at the National Wildlife Visitor Center, Patuxent Research Refuge. It was in conjunction with the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest.

Here's what I said, more or less:

Good afternoon, fellow bird lovers.

I've been a volunteer with Lights Out Baltimore for ten years. With others, I would undertake the essential work, which included monitoring and data collection, but also transporting injured birds to a wildlife rehabilitator. Then my artist self began to consider how I could use my art as a means to advocate for birds. I began photographing what we found during LOB monitoring; deceased warblers, vireos, thrushes, and more. The project won the Mary Sawyers Baker Prize, but exhibiting the problem wasn't enough. As a bird advocate, I had to offer solutions. I began devising window treatments.

On April 3, 2016, I was part of a discussion on art and bird conservation at VisArts in Rockville. In a PowerPoint, I showed

off my hand cut decals that I used on gallery windows where I happened to be exhibiting, implementing the 2x4 rule. Birds won't fly through a vertically oriented pattern that is four inches or less. Horizontally, it's two inches or less.

After my talk, a woman approached, and I met the new visitor services manager of the National Wildlife Visitor Center, Jennie McNicoll. She was dismayed that their untreated windows were killing birds. To birds, the refuge's habitat was being reflected alluringly in the glass. She invited me to give a collisions related talk to the staff. During the discussion, she turned to me and asked, "how do we move ahead with making our building bird-safe? ASAP," she said.

More discussions followed. We knew we wanted to use window film in some capacity. Jennie wanted the design to illustrate the animals and plants within the national wildlife refuge system. At first, I thought I'd be applying my usual small cut-outs, or handmade decals. The decals would be frosted in appearance, the small spaces in between left clear. I set to work drawing species-specific shapes, but we quickly realized that the pattern would be too busy for their huge windows. We switched to the wallpaper

# **"As a bird advocate, I had to offer solutions. I began devising window treatments..."**

idea, with a bigger pattern. With the perforated film, when you're inside, you still can see through to the outside.

It was going to take time to implement. We had to figure out how to do it. Temporarily, Jennie had interns paint a pattern with tempera to keep the birds safe. Some of the wonderful paintings still exist on the side exits. She also had them hang BirdSavers, parachute cord, at four-inch intervals on the back office windows. Meanwhile, I drew.

We looked into companies that would make and install the film for us. It was expensive. We despaired. Then we found Jay Williams Design Co. and we settled on an affordable budget.

There was a lot of going back and forth regarding design, but he made it work. I had to learn what a vector file was. I had to scan all of my drawings and he converted the files for the printer. He fitted the designs to the windows.

They were such big windows. I only had enough designs for four, so I recruited my partner, Chris Siron, also an artist, to design three others. He's always an essential and committed participant to projects I take on. The next year, I drew designs for the upper windows and doors.

Jennie, Jay, and I worked together to make this happen, but without funding from Friends of Patuxent and the grant procured by Lindsay Jacks, Coordinator of Lights Out Baltimore...well, this was a group effort.

Jennie recently moved back to Minnesota where I know she'll continue important work. I wish she were here today to celebrate with us. It was such an honor to work with her (here's where I get teary). We worked very hard on this. This building is now bird-safe because she was determined to make it so.

Lynne Parks, Artist and Bird Advocate

Images: Sean Downs, Lights Out Baltimore Volunteer.



## ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

## Expedition to the Kingdom of the Ice Bear

My wife *Carol Swan* and I travelled to Norway for an expedition around the Svalbard Archipelago in the High Arctic in August.

We had a 13-hour layover in Oslo before our three-hour flight to Longyearbyen, Svalbard, so I arranged for the leader of the Oslo area BirdLife International partner—Norwegian Ornithological Society—and his compatriots to take us birding and on a tour of Oslo. This was followed by an early dinner on a small island on the Oslo Fjord with birds surrounding us. Lifers that day included Barnacle Geese, male Great-crested Grebe (symbol of their group), Pink-footed and Graylag Geese. I then made a presentation on bird conservation in the U.S. to 22 members of the group.

Svalbard is made up of many islands, the largest is Spitsbergen, the former name for the archipelago. We hired guides before our ship departed and after arrival back in Longyearbyen while awaiting our flight. Some of the species that we saw included Common and King Eiders, Arctic Terns, Snow Bunting, Purple Sandpipers, Parasitic Jaeger and many other sea birds along with an Arctic fox and Svalbard reindeer.

Svalbard is slightly larger than West Virginia. Temperatures ranged from 23-40 degrees F. During our 12 days in Svalbard, there were 24 hours of daylight.

Our expedition ship was the *Hondius*, a new ship with excellent cabins, service, and food with many guides and 160 passengers. The trip is centered on wildlife and maximizes exposure to spectacular scenery as we search for critters. There are many fjords and mountains with the highest peak at 5,600 feet. About 60% of the land mass is covered by glaciers. We made many Zodiac landings with

CHAPTER CHATTER  
by Jean Wheeler



hikes on land and sometimes stayed in the Zodiacs to look for critters and enjoy the icebergs and scenery. While ice conditions made our planned circumnavigation impossible, the staff made up for it with excellent sightings.

My #1 target was to see and be with walrus and the mission was accomplished as we were 200 feet away from a walrus haul-out and got to sit on a drift log, likely from Siberia, and watch the behavior of walruses for an hour. It was a dream come true for me. There were about 300 walruses at this site but not all in our line of sight. Considering that the walrus population has been reduced to 4,000 in the huge area around Svalbard from 100,000 in 1600, even our guides were impressed. We also got to be on land again with a walrus haul-out of 35. Some at both sites were frolicking in the shallows after becoming heated.

But the #1 target for most all others was the Polar bear and during our 11 days at sea and in the ice, we saw nine Polar bears. Three

eating a dead walrus washed up on a rocky shore while another bear attempted to take a meal but was fought-off by the others. We twice saw an isolated bear as we slowly cruised the sea ice within 600 miles of the North Pole. At least four Zodiac landings were aborted due to the presence of the Ice Bear. They are very dangerous, and all landings are preceded by guides with high-powered rifles scouting for bears first. Even during the landings all guides retain their rifles just in case and four others form a look-out perimeter.

We saw Arctic fox and Svalbard reindeer well and were among the lucky few that saw a family of beluga whales with young very close-up. What a sight! That was in Hornsund at a massive glacier front that was calving. We were among Arctic Terns, Parasitic Jaegers, Thick-billed Murres, Atlantic Puffins, Black and Common Guillemots, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Northern Fulmars, and Glaucous Gulls and a target species I missed—Ivory Gull. It was an awesome experience, spiritual really, as we observed silence in nature's beauty.

The high cliffs of Svalbard are inhabited by tens of thousands of breeding seabirds with the Thick-billed Murres being most numerous late in the season while we were there. We observed them on the cliffs with some of their young swimming in the Arctic Ocean. Those that did not reach the ocean were easy prey for Arctic fox and Glaucous Gulls. The Jaegers also harassed some of the many Arctic Terns we saw.

We also saw Red-throated Loons, Barnacle and Pink-footed Geese, many Purple Sandpipers, and a few Red-throated Loons.

We sighted the rare bowhead whale as well as humpback, minke, and fin whales. We saw bearded, harbor, and ringed seals.

Finally, even in this harsh environment, the wildflowers were flourishing—Arctic cottongrass, Polar willow, one of two tree species with a maximum height of 2 inches, and purple saxifrage. For a trip of a lifetime, see [Oceanwide-Expeditions.com](http://Oceanwide-Expeditions.com) *Gerald Winegrad. Images of bears and walruses by Carol Swan. See page 25 for more photos by Carol.*

## CAROLINE COUNTY

The Caroline County Bird Club celebrated *Bill Scudder's* 60th year as a member of MOS and its Caroline County Chapter. President *Danny Poet* provided a PowerPoint highlighting Bill's involvement in the Club, including keeping the Myrtle Simons Pelot Sanctuary attractive and safe, participating in Girl Scout Earth Day at Camp Todd, and assisting with the Club's annual **Big Sit** event. Bill has held multiple positions both in the Club and in MOS. Highlighted also was his finding a Western Tanager on October 21, 1962 when as a teen, he helped Chan Robbins and others band birds in Ocean City,



MD. This was the first record of a Western Tanager in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. As an amusing side note, it was not accepted until 1995, even though Chan was there to confirm what it was. Bill was integral in confirming and reporting a Western Tanager in Caroline County in 2015, which is the first record for the county. Congratulations Bill!

On a sad note, the Club lost a long-time member and contributor to our bird counts, *Gary French*. Gary passed away July 20, 2019. An excellent birder and a kind man with a gentle sense of humor, he will be missed. *Debby Bennett*

## CECIL COUNTY

Africa

In March *Ken and Kimberleigh Drier* joined up with Overseas Adventure Travel for three weeks in Kenya and Tanzania on safari. After a 14-hour nonstop flight from JFK in New York they arrived in Nairobi, Kenya. For Ken the birding started right at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi while waiting for the shuttle to the hotel with Pied Crow and Red-winged Starlings. A relaxing first day around the hotel pool in the middle of town getting over the stress of jet lag produced such marvels as the Variable Sunbird, Spectacled Dove, Marabou Stork, Spectacled Mousebird, White-browed Sparrow Weaver.

The next day the group, nine persons in all, took a small plane out to Masai Mara for the first real adventure. Leaving the airport, which was a dirt strip with a picnic shelter, Ken spotted the turkey sized Southern Ground Hornbill strutting across the plains. Kim and Ken were there with their Masai guide George, who wore his traditional tribal clothing, for four days. By the second day the group had already found the so called Big 5. This consists of the lion, leopard, elephant, black rhino and Cape Buffalo. Besides the Big 5, the group was treated to 5 cheetahs out on a hunt and cheetah mom with 4 cubs. The group was not particularly into birds. While everyone would be snapping napping lions with their cameras Ken was finding White-bellied Bustards, beautiful Lilac-breasted Rollers, Greater Blue-eared Starlings and several more birds with colors in their names.

Next up was Lake Nakuru National Park. The group stayed nearby on the water at Lake Elmenteita. Flamingos, African Spoonbills and Purple Grenadiers were highlights seen from the cabin porch. Lake Nakuru was productive with three more Black Rhinos, Saddle-billed Stork, both Red and Yellow-billed Oxpeckers on the backs of buffalos, Green Wood-hoopoe and the long tailed African Paradise Flycatcher, one of Kim's favorites from a previous trip to South Africa.

Heading into Tanzania going toward Amboseli National Park, Mount Kilimanjaro could clearly be seen in the distance. The snow-capped peak was the focal point of Kim and Ken's view from their tent while at Amboseli. This park is known for its elephants and they did not disappoint. Several large family groups were observed moving across the plains and swampy areas. Kim's favorites were the babies which could be found playing in the water and then mud. Gray-crowned Cranes, Meyer's or Brown Parrots, Little Bee-eaters, Crimson-rumped Waxbill, Blue-capped

Cordonbleu and two species of Firefinch convinced the group that they needed to pay attention to the birds as well as hippopotamus. Cameras began turning up into the trees for pictures and Ken obliged giving names to all that they were seeing.

Tarangire National Park hosts the largest concentration of breeding bird species of any place in the world. The rest of the wildlife was pretty spectacular as well. The day started with 10 lions feasting on a Buffalo carcass while the giant White-backed Vultures sat silently in the Baobab trees. These birds are twice the size of Turkey and Black Vultures. Families of elephants gathered at the waterholes to cool off and play. They were joined by the African Jacana, Blacksmith Plovers, Sacred and Hadada Ibis and Black-headed Herons. Large herds of zebras stampeded into the lake and a Tawny Eagle kept watch, as did four-foot-long Monitor Lizards.

The UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Ngorongoro Crater was the next stop. This is a huge volcanic crater about 1500 feet high that houses a whole Noah's ark array of African animals from Black Rhinos, to hippos, to elephants and gazelles and then of course birds. African Fish Eagle, flocks of both Greater and Lesser Flamingos, as well as both the spectacular Superb and Hildebrandt's Starlings were some of the birds found. As the group made their way down into the crater a Secretary-bird was out hunting and seen catching a mouse and eating it. The Kori Bustard is the heavyweight of the avian world. Weighing up to 35 pounds it is the heaviest of all flying birds. One bustard performed for the group prancing about all puffed up in its breeding plumage similar to our prairie chickens. Everyone was a birder now.

The finale was four days in the Serengeti. Kim and Ken were tenting in the Mbugani Camp in the middle of the plains. Serengeti means endless plains in the Swahili language. There were places where from horizon to horizon there would be no trees or bushes in sight but at the same time one could view thousands of wildebeest, zebras and impalas. Three species of cuckoos, Fischer's Lovebirds and a great variety of thirteen eagles, harriers and vultures kept things interesting. The last three nights armed guards were needed to escort the group back and forth from the tents to the dining hall as hippos, buffalo and lions wandered through the camp after dark.

Kim was hoping to see baby elephants on the trip, and she did. She also was able to watch a baby Thompson's Gazelle being born and taking its first steps, baby giraffes and lion and cheetah cubs as well. Ken was hoping to see 200 species of birds. It was a good estimate. He tallied 198 with 105 being life birds. It was an experience to be relived for a long time and never to be forgotten.

*Ken Drier*

## FREDERICK COUNTY

Frederick Bird Club proudly presented David Wallace with its Valued Service Award. Wallace, 92, has been a dedicated member of the club for 41 years and a birder since age 10. He is past President of the Frederick Bird Club and was the Frederick County Coordinator for the first Maryland-DC BBA. He continues to bird regularly and lead club trips. *Orietta Estrada*



Frederick Bird Club President, Bonnie Borsa with Valued Service Award recipient, David Wallace. Image: Orietta Estrada

## TALBOT COUNTY

### Santa Marta Escape 2019

My wife *Jill Khadduri* and I participated in the Field Guides tour Colombia: Santa Marta Escape 2019. The official tour dates were February 18 to 26, but Jill and I arrived in Barranquilla the starting location on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We arrive early for birding trips to have time for cultural tourism and to avoid arriving late due to airline delays and cancellations. A bonus for early arrival was a pre-tour day of birding with a Field Guides leader. The tour was planned for eight participants and two leaders. Close to departure time, two participants cancelled and, amazingly, Field Guides sent a third leader as pre-paid space was available! Our guides were Cory Gregory, Tom Johnson, and Diana Balcazar. Diana is a Colombian and, besides finding birds, was responsible for local arrangements.

The tour core was the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, a mountain range close to the Caribbean coast with snow-capped peaks rising to 19,000 feet. We spent four nights in the Santa Marta Reserve in ProAves' El Dorado Eco-Lodge at 6,300 feet and birded up to 8,700 feet on the San Lorenzo Ridge. The Reserve is noted for its many endemic species and the ridge for spectacular sunrises.

We birded coastal marshes and lagoons and the Guajira Peninsula, a coastal desert and the farthest north point in South America, on the way to Santa Marta. We stayed overnight in the Guajira town of Riohacha. The next day we left for a hotel in Minca, a lovely town

in the foothills, where we saw a splendid assortment of birds including hummingbirds at the hotel's feeder. On the return to Barranquilla, we again birded coastal locations. Even rest stops at highway toll stations produced new birds.

The number of birds sighted or heard by the group was 283, of which 10 were heard only. Twenty species were endemics, of which 17 were endemic to Santa Marta. In addition, the subspecies of six species seen in Santa Marta were endemics. A bonus of birding near the Venezuela border is that 18 of the species seen are found only in Colombia and nearby Venezuela, including the beautiful Vermillion Cardinal. Now that birding seems impossible in Venezuela, one has to find these species in Colombia. The group list was rich in hummingbirds (20 species), raptors (23 species), and tyrant flycatchers (38 species).

I saw or heard well 252 of the group species. Ten of those I missed are easy to see in the USA, species such as Brown Pelican and Great Blue Heron! Those on the pre-tour saw 11 species not seen later, including the Shining-green Hummingbird, which is found only in Colombia and Venezuela. A special reward for me was seeing a Tapaculo, after many years and visits to Central and South America and hearing but never seeing one. Our guides coaxed a Santa Marta Tapaculo out of hiding long enough for it to pose on a stump. Another reward was that I never have had a good sighting of a Tennessee Warbler, but on this trip I had wonderful close up views. Many other fascinating sightings occurred. Among the most memorable was on the visit to Isla Salamanca. We were guided to the rare Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird by a park naturalist who was studying the feeding habits of the bird. At a nature center we had close up views of a Santa Marta Antpitta, which came out in the open, rare for an Antpitta, to feed on worms put out by a center employee. This location also produced a flock of Santa Marta Parakeets that entertained us for a long time before disappearing. White-rumped Hawks are hard to spot, but one perched in a tree in front of us. A Bat Falcon sitting on a telecommunications tower demonstrated how to hawk for dragonflies. The most memorable bird to me was the full appearance of a Flammulated Treehunter, a bird of strong character.

All in all, a great trip thanks to world class guides who always amaze me by their ability to track bird movements in dense foliage and then to get a spotting scope on the bird when it pops out before I can get my binoculars on it. To do this trip on one's own would be difficult, because the road in the Santa Marta Reserve is impossible to drive without a rugged 4-wheel drive vehicle. Diana has a stable of such vehicles with excellent drivers who, besides driving, know where hard to see birds have been seen recently. Barranquilla is a large industrial port city, some call it gritty, lacking an interesting old colonial city core. Other than having the second largest Carnival in Latin America, it is not a tourist destination. In 2019 the Carnival started right after we left. The city was already festively decorated, especially in the hotels, and dance groups could be seen around the city practicing for the event. Had Jill and I been aware long enough in advance, we would have booked a room and stayed over. *Tom Geary See*

page 17 and 24 for Tom's photos of a Santa Marta Antpitta and a Scarlet-fronted Parakeet.

## TRI-COUNTY

*Marcia Balestri* (Tri-County Bird Club) and *Suzette Stitely* (Talbot Bird Club) traveled to Uganda for a 3-week birding tour visiting 10 different sites including 4 beautiful national parks. They explored a variety of habitats such as the papyrus swamps around Lake Victoria, the endemic-rich Albertine Rift area, the low elevation rainforests, and a range of woodland and African savanna.

The tour recorded a total of 539 species, of which 530 were seen (9 heard only). Highlights included the enigmatic Shoebill, African Finfoot, 16 Albertine Rift endemics, Grauer's Broadbill, Green-breasted Pitta, and 2 national rarities, Cutthroat Finch and Slender-billed Gull. They also tracked and sat with both Chimpanzees and Gorillas for an hour each—a once in a lifetime experience. As with most African safaris, mammals were plentiful, and they recorded 44 mammal species, spotting 9 other primate species, the famous tree-climbing lions, a Leopard with cub, a Genet, African Elephants, Hippopotamuses, Zebras and several species of antelope. *Marcia Balestri*

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

*Doug and Anna Hutzell* visited southern Arizona in February and spent an exciting day birding Madera Canyon and the surrounding area with friends. Over half of the 57 species seen were life birds for the Hutzell's. A few of their favorites included

seven woodpecker species, Vermillion Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Bridled Titmouse, Verdin, Phainopepla, Townsend's Warbler, and Hepatic Tanager. The true prize of the day was a White-throated Thrush. First spotted on January 9, this thrush was a first record for Arizona, and has previously been seen in the US just a few times in southern Texas. *Anna Hutzell*

In April of this year, Washington County birder *Heather McSharry* traveled to the southwest corner of Utah for a hiking and birding trip. Along with the spectacular scenery, this area offers some good birding and includes the extreme northern ranges of a suite of southwestern desert birds. Species highlights included Costa's Hummingbird, Gambel's Quail, Say's Phoebe, Abert's Towhee, Hooded Oriole and Lucy's Warbler. Although Heather was not lucky enough to spot them, a young pair of California Condors were nesting in Zion National Park. What an excellent reason for a trip to this beautiful area! *Heather McSharry*

In July of this year, six Washington County birders (*Heather McSharry, Mark Abdy, Anna and Doug Hutzell and Michael and Cheryl Saylor*) enjoyed an afternoon boat trip to the Bird Islands near Englishtown, Nova Scotia. Atlantic Puffins were the highlight of the tour and we enjoyed seeing several hundred birds in the water along with a few individuals at the entrances to their burrow nests. Other species observed in abundance included Black Guillemot, Black-legged Kittiwake, Razorbill and Great Cormorant. More than 50 Bald Eagles were also observed on or near the islands, preying on the nesting seabirds. *Heather McSharry* See page 24 for Michael's photo of an Atlantic Puffin.

YMOS News...continued from page 7.

birds. No matter how small a conservation effort it is, it will make a difference.

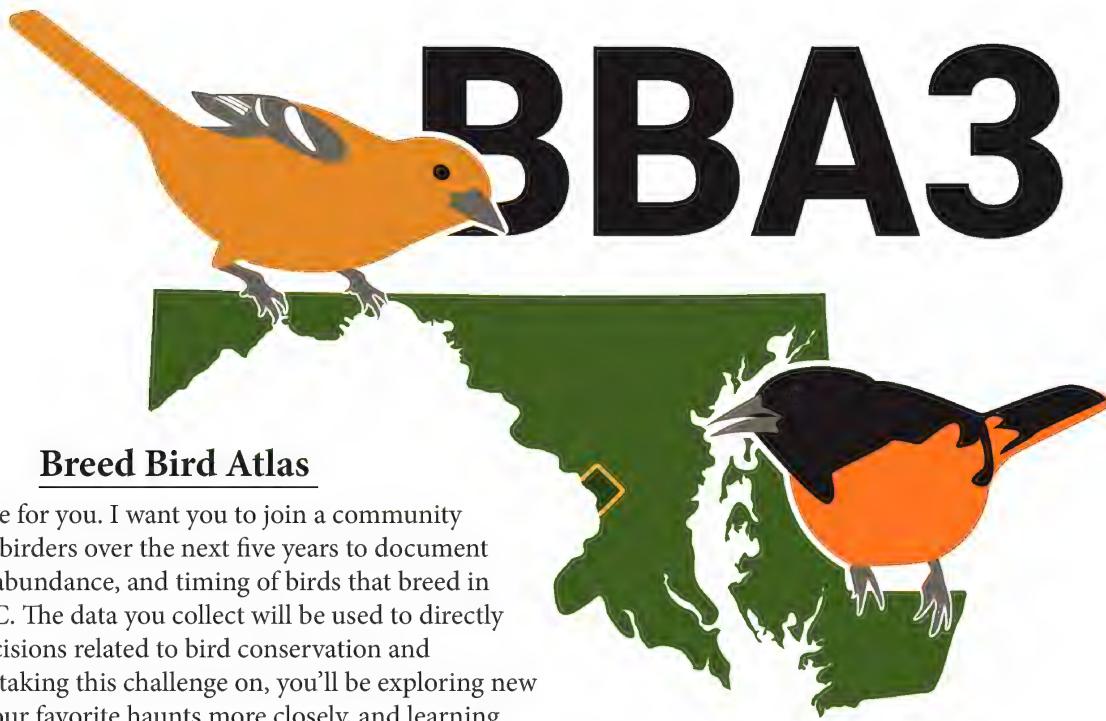
The WSB also taught me many important life lessons. We learned teamwork because we had to work together as a team to succeed, and we learned how important it is to communicate to your teammates. One of the most important lessons we were taught is that we should never take anything for granted. We took the Rock Pigeon for granted, but when we saw one, we were so happy. Even something so insignificant like the Rock Pigeon can help you achieve your goals. We would like to thank our drivers (my parents), our mentor Mr. George, MOS, and other parents for supporting us, buying us snacks, and teaching us many important life skills. The WSB experience wouldn't have been possible without them.

## Place Your Announcement in *The Yellowthroat*

Reach members interested in your bird-related services by placing an announcement in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. For more information contact the Editor:

[yellowthroat@mdbirds.org](mailto:yellowthroat@mdbirds.org)

Any member is welcome to contribute articles, photos, or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Do you have a perspective that you would like to share with the birding community? We would like to hear from you. Email the editor at: [yellowthroat@mdbirds.org](mailto:yellowthroat@mdbirds.org).



## Breed Bird Atlas

I have a challenge for you. I want you to join a community of hundreds of birders over the next five years to document the distribution, abundance, and timing of birds that breed in Maryland and DC. The data you collect will be used to directly inform future decisions related to bird conservation and management. By taking this challenge on, you'll be exploring new areas, studying your favorite haunts more closely, and learning more about bird behavior.

This project, co-led by the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Maryland-DC Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA3). Atlases such as this one are repeated about every 20 years to learn about changes in local bird populations. Along with New York, Maryland & DC will be the first region to have completed a 3<sup>rd</sup> atlas. The citizen science platform 'eBird' will be used for data collection. Using eBird will allow participants to view live progress of effort and species at the state, county, and block level. A grid of 1,302 nine square mile blocks overlays the state. Each of these blocks is available for participants to sign-up for as the primary observer, responsible for completing that block's coverage goals.

Within a block, observers simply do what comes natural to birders: find, identify, and watch birds. The key to an atlas is to record breeding evidence for each species, and breeding evidence is effectively just bird behavior. For example, a bird singing might be breeding nearby, while a bird carrying food is almost certainly breeding nearby. Breeding evidence has been put into a tidy series of codes (for example, S = singing male, while CF = carrying food). When entering an eBird checklist, the appropriate code can be selected from a drop-down menu.

If you accept my challenge and join the search for breeding evidence, you'll probably hear a lot more from me, so I should introduce myself. I am from Saskatchewan, Canada, have been actively birding since high school, and have a background in bird research. I studied Common Nighthawk habitat use in Canada's boreal forest and White-browed Sparrow-weaver nest-building behavior in South Africa. Over the last decade, I've worked on bird surveys from Alaska to the prairies to Nunavut. Now, I couldn't be more thrilled to be in Maryland coordinating BBA3.

One of the most wonderful things about an atlas is that folks of all skill levels can participate; it is not reserved for 'expert' birders. A friendly sense of competition may emerge between observers but, ultimately, we're all doing this because we enjoy birds, we want to learn more about them, and we want healthy, thriving bird populations. By now, you have probably heard that North American breeding bird populations have declined by 29% in the last 50 years — a staggering loss. These declines highlight more than ever the importance of gathering data on our local birds.

I'm eager to get started atlasing, and I can't wait to run into you in the field. If you have any questions at all, please send me an email ([gabriel.j.foley@gmail.com](mailto:gabriel.j.foley@gmail.com)), give me a call (202-407-3667), or connect with me on Twitter (@birdnirdfoley). I'm always happy to talk birds!

Gabriel Foley, BBA Coordinator





Left: Whimbrel,  
Swan Creek, Anne  
Arrundel. Image  
Credit: Kathy  
Calvert



Below: Common  
Loon That Didn't  
Leave Loch  
Raven. Image  
Credit: Gene  
Ricks.

## M E M B E R   P H O T O S



Top: Least Bittern at Hughes Hollow (McKee-Breshers WMA) in Montgomery County. Image Credit: Max Wilson.

Left: Santa Marta Antpitta looking for Worms. Image Credit: Tom Geary.

## Yet Another Adventure?

Our initial offerings (Cuba and Trinidad) proved so successful we are scheduling yet another trip to an special locale. This time upper Minnesota. Not very special, you say? Well, how about January in Minnesota, specifically January 25-29, 2020. And before you scramble for your computer, let me break the news: temperatures hover around 0 and can drop to -25. I call that special! Contact me for details ([Maryanne.dolan@gmail.com](mailto:Maryanne.dolan@gmail.com)) or visit our website, [www.mdbirds.com](http://www.mdbirds.com). Trip is limited to 7 participants and cost \$1,595. If more than 7 hearty souls want to go, RedHill Birding can add an additional trip on either end of our booking.

## 2020 C&O Canal Count

The 2020 Chesapeake & Ohio Canal count will take place January 25 through February 2. Contact Jim Speicher [jugornought@gmail.com](mailto:jugornought@gmail.com)

## Save the Date!

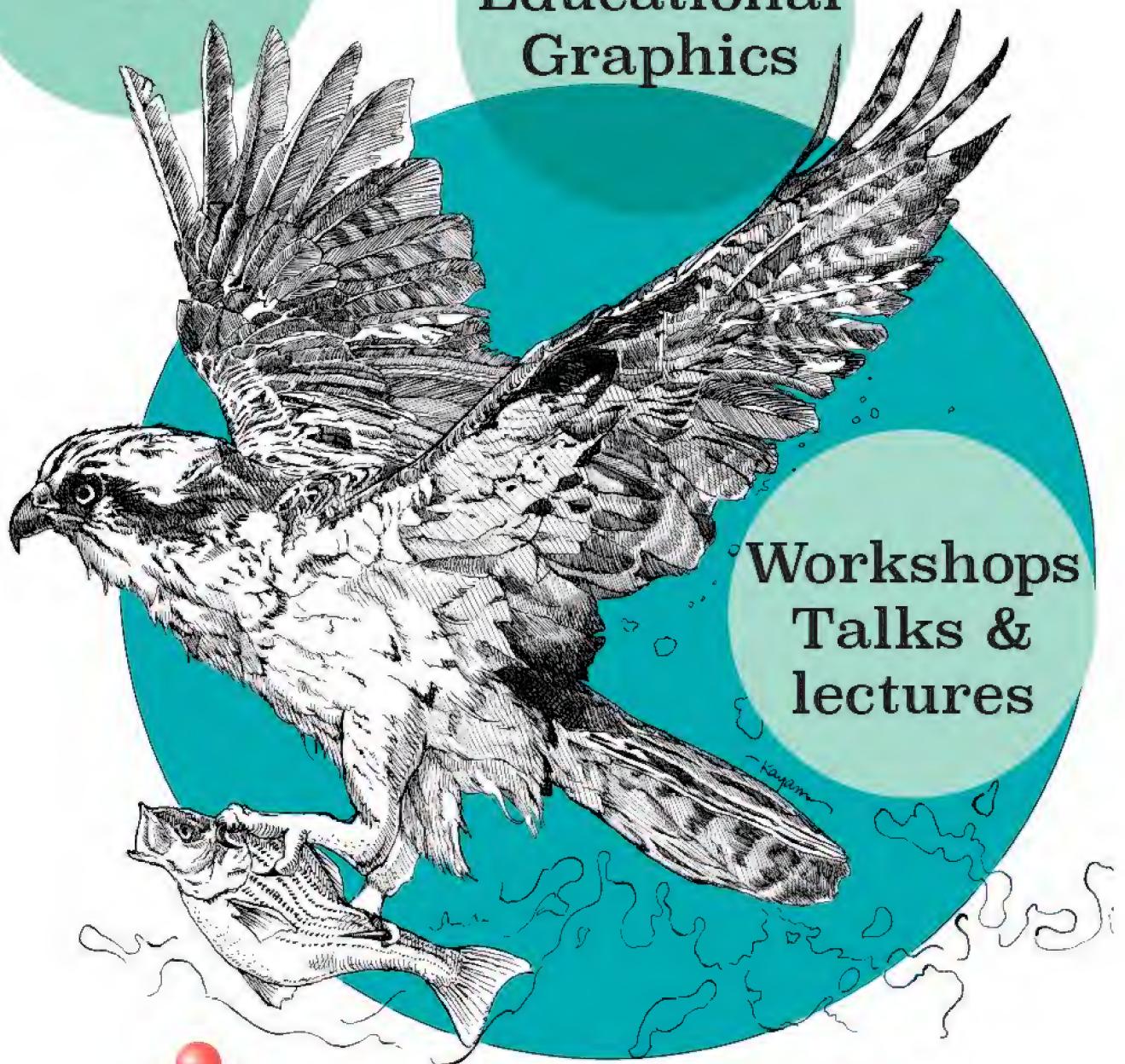
MOS is proud to announce the 73th MOS convention to be held May 15 - May 17, 2020 at the Cumberland Ramada in Cumberland, Maryland. Please watch for future MOS newsgrams and updates to our convention website (<http://www.mosconvention.org>) for 2020 convention details.

This convention will be special because it will celebrate our 75th year as an organization. MOS hopes to see you there!

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## CALENDAR

11/2/2019	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com) for more information. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed.
11/2/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Morgan Run South	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact Dave Smith, lacsmith12@comcast.net or 443-995-4108. Description: We'll look for late migrants and early winter residents, including fox sparrow and hermit thrush. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Ben Rose Lane. Moderate hiking.
11/2/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Turkey Point	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader TBA Description: We will look for birds along the trail from the parking lot of Elk Neck State Park until we reach Turkey Point, a wonderful place to see raptors as they work their way south. Meet at the Turkey Point Light House Trail Parking lot.
11/2/19	8 AM – 5 PM	Trip to Assateague Island	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Fall migrants tend to concentrate on the coast and many rarities have been found among the more common species on Assateague late in the season. Bring lunch. Meet at Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace, Chestertown at 8 AM.
11/2/2019	8 AM – 5 PM	Trip to Chincoteague NWR	Host: YMOS. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip. Description: Waterfowl will be back, and Chincoteague provides a unique opportunity to explore many types of habitats. Lodging will be provided Fri and/or Sat nights for students coming from a distance.
11/2/2019	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Howard Conservancy Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Russ Ruffing, ruff2@verizon.net. Description: Sky watch for late-migrating raptors and other potential goodies. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, light-colored sun glasses, comfortable lawn chair (recliners are best), binocular, scope, and camera if you like. Facilities available. Handicap accessible.
11/2/2019		Field Trip to C&O Canal	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact George Warrick at 301-799-9059 or wildbird@myactv.net for meeting time and place. Description: Enjoy a morning outing along the C&O Canal.
11/3/2019	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Birding at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: Monthly walk along paved paths as well as grass and dirt paths through varied habitat.
11/3/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe Bird Trip	Host: Talbot County Bird Club. Leaders Ron Ketter (707-373-5532) and Susan Henyon (240-682-3882). Description: This is the Home of the George C. and Naomi Moore Nature Preserve. Expect late neotropical migrants as well as sparrows and migrating raptors. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM.
11/3/2019	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, richard@rrrrpeters.org. Description: Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. Meet at west end parking lot.
11/3/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Oaks Landfill	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Contact leader Mark England, 240-207-3132 or 240-375-4500), for reservations and more information. Description: Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views and one hill climb of moderate difficulty. Possible sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. <u>Reservations are essential.</u> Limit 16.
11/6/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	First Wednesday at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate.
11/6/2019		Local Hawk Watch	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact Tom Humphrey, 240-793-2508, for meeting time and location. Description: Tom will lead a search for migrating hawks. Date and location dependent on weather conditions.
11/7/2019	3 – 5 PM	Birding at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.

# BIRDING



11/8/2019	09:15 PM	Saw-whet Owl Banding at Lambs Knoll	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact Anna Hutzell at 301-797-8454 to register. Description: Wear sturdy shoes, bring a flashlight, and be prepared to stay as late as midnight. Children are welcome. Meet 9:15 PM at the Boonsboro P&R. Spaces limited.
11/9/19	All Day	Irish Grove Work Weekend	Host: MOS Sanctuary Committee. Description: Contact Dotty Mumford at dottymumford06@gmail.com or Dominic Nucifora at d.nucifora@yahoo.com. We will make repairs to the house and trails at Irish Grove Sanctuary. You can stay in the house or camp on the lawn. Indoor space is limited so make arrangements with Dotty or Dominic.
11/9/2019	7:30 AM – 3 PM	Irish Grove Sanctuary	Host: Tri-county Bird Club We need to have a head count one week before the trip, so please contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: Irish Grove Sanctuary for migrating and resident marsh species and to help with the annual workday. Lunch will be provided; our club will bring desserts, so contributions to that will be appreciated. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM or Irish Grove at 8:15 AM.
11/9/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Eden Mill	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Diane Jones (baltobirder55@gmail.com or 410-404-9180) and Susan Hood (susanhood@comcast.net or 410-937-7552). Description: Included will be parts of the nearby Harford County Land Trust property, the beautiful Hidden Valley, and other secret spots. We will be looking for wintering birds and the possibility of owls.
11/9/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Sharps at Waterford Farm	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com or 410-531-3197. Description: Moderate walking over crop stubble, farm roads and paths on this working farm. Diverse habitats and good birding opportunities. Port-a-pots available. Knee-high waterproof footwear is advisable for part of hike. Meet at farm parking area, through barns on right.
11/9/2019	8:30 AM – 12 PM	Ashland NCR Trail and Paper Mill Flats	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net. Description: Trip to two locations for marsh birds, wintering waterfowl and late fall songbirds. Bring spotting telescope if you have one. Meet at NCR Trail parking lot north side of Ashland/Paper Mill Rd.
11/10/2019	8 – 11 AM	Birding at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Dotty Doherty, 443-926-3054 or dottyholcombdoherty@gmail.com. Description: Join us for our monthly walk on paved paths through habitat that includes mature deciduous forest, wood edges, mowed fields, wetlands, and a native plant garden, along with sweeping views of the open waters of the South River and Harness Creek.
11/10/2019	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Sarah Romero, Smyrna_38@yahoo.com or 586-337-3860. Description: Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. Meet at west end parking lot.
11/10/2019	9 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: TBA, contact Marshy Point for further details, 410-887-2817. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful.
11/10/19	All Day	Prime Hook NWR Trip	Host: Talbot County Bird Club. Leader Charles Hopkins (443-786-6332). Description: Waterfowl, sparrows and possible late migrants. All day trip, bring drink and lunch. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.
11/11/2019		Basics of Sparrow ID at Blue Mash	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For reservations, time, and directions, contact Lydia Schindler, lydia13621@gmail.com or Linda Friedland, linnet1@verizon.net. Description: Sparrows--Little Brown Jobs, to some--can be tricky to identify. A morning at Blue Mash provides a good opportunity to learn and review key field marks. This trip is primarily for beginners but all are welcome. Limit 8.
11/16/2019	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile east of Rt 301. No reservations needed.
11/16/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Waterfowl Tour	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader John Rinker (231-769-8114 or john.rinker@gmail.com). Description: Don't miss the chance to search a variety of spots to see the diverse species of waterfowl that inhabit Harford County's many waterways. The trip will start at Swan Harbor Farm Park.
11/16/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Canceled in bad weather. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side.



## BIRDING

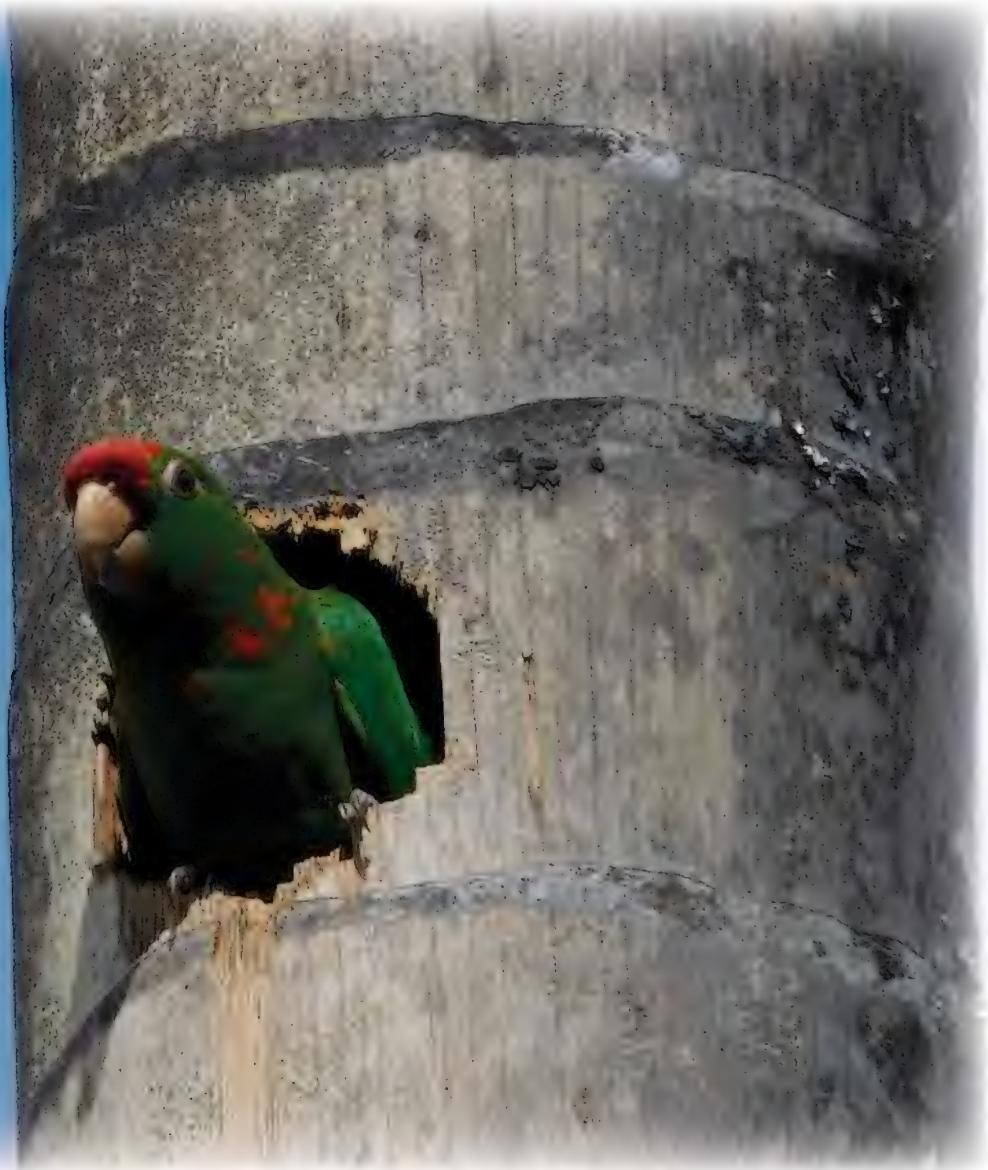
11/16/2019	9 – 11 AM	Nature Walk at Audrey Carroll	Host: Audubon Society of Central Maryland. Contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071. Description: In November, migratory birds are transitioning to or settling into their winter homes, so come out and let's see what species we find!
11/16/2019		Saw-whet Owl Banding	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact Tom Humphrey for information and reservations (240-793-2508). Description: Late night trip. Reservations are required and the number of participants is limited on this special night-time trip to the Saw-Whet Owl banding station at Lamb's Knoll.
11/17/19	7:30 – 10 AM	Oxford & Environs Bird Trip	Host: Talbot County Bird Club. Leaders Tom Corl (202-215-1684) and Ron Ketter (707-373-5532). Description: Explore the Oxford Conservation Park for sparrows and meadowlarks. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM OR meet the leaders at 7:30 AM at the Town Park in Oxford, across from the Town Hall.
11/17/2019	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, richard@rrrrpeters.org. Description: Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. Meet at west end parking lot.
11/21/2019	3 – 5 PM	Birding at Lake Artesmesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
11/23/2019	7:30 AM – 3 PM	Birding at Bombay Hook	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Contact Betty Pitney, 410-543-1853, or Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: Bombay Hook NWR for fall migrants and winter residents. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM or the Bombay Hook Visitor Center parking lot at 9 AM.
11/23/2019	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk, Broadford Lake and Loch Lynn Boardwalk	Host: A/G Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Meet at the gate to the ball fields on Broadford Rd to look for waterfowl and lingering forest birds. We will drive to the Loch Lynn Boardwalk if time allows.
11/23/2019	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club, Audubon and Maryland Zoo. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! Meet at 3001 East Drive.
11/23/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Greenbury Point	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Linda Vitchock, 443-557-8233 or lindabavit@hotmail.com. Description: Habitats include wooded coves, shallow wetland ponds, forest and scrub areas. Excellent views of the Chesapeake Bay, and one of the largest grasslands in the county.
11/23/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Eastern Neck	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Tom Congersky (jnjtcon@zoominternet.net or 410-658-4137) and Eric Vangrin(evangrin@msn.com or 443-417-7219). Description: A trip to see ducks, swans, pelicans and other waterfowl at this little known Eastern Shore gem. Meet at the Havre de Grace P&R (I-95/Rt.155).
11/23/2019	All Day	Trip to Bombay Hook NWR	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com or 667-231-6453. Description: The peak of waterfowl migration occurs in November. Minimal walking. Bring lunch, water, and snacks. Telescopes very useful. Meet at Nursery Rd/Hammonds Ferry Rd P&R at 7 AM sharp.
11/24/2019	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com or 410-370-0747. Description: Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. Meet at west end parking lot.
11/24/19	All Day	Eastern Neck NWR Trip	Host: Talbot County Bird Club. Leader Wayne Bell (410-820-6002). Description: Always an interesting trip to one of Maryland's premier waterfowl wintering areas. All day trip, bring lunch and drinks. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.
11/24/2019		Birding at Lilypons/ New Design Road	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leader Clive Harris, clivegharris@yahoo.com. Description: Half day. Wintering field birds, targeting Fox and Tree Sparrows, possibly Virginia Rail and American Bittern. Call leader for reservation (required) and more info.



11/29/2019	All Day	Annual Black Friday Trip to Blackwater NWR in memory of Barbara Ricciardi	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact: Peter Hanan, 301-580-2785 or peter.hanan@icloud.com. Description: Join us for the annual "Black Friday" trip in honor of our late Barbara Ricciardi. Bring lunch, and plan on stopping at Old Salty's on Hooper's Island for an early dinner before returning to the refuge for look for owls. Meet at Bay 50 at 7:30 AM.
11/30/2019	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Audubon. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of East Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave.
11/30/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Conowingo Eagle Watch	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Dennis Kirkwood (newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905). Description: Meet at Fisherman's Park downstream end of the parking lot near the trail head. Bring your camera for a chance at shots of eagles along with other shorebirds and waterfowl.
12/1/19	6:30 AM – 12 PM	North Dorchester County Bird Trip	Host: Talbot County Bird Club. Leader Dave Bent (410-822-2113). Description: We will be seeing waterfowl, field birds, and sparrows. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.
12/1/2019	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Birding at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact: Alan Young at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: Join us for the monthly walk along paved paths as well as grass and dirt paths through varied habitat.
12/4/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	First Wednesday at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate.
12/5/2019	3 – 5 PM	Birding at Lake Artesmesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
12/7/2019	7:30 – 11 AM	Birding at Masonville Cove and Middle Branch Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Description: Masonville Cove in Baltimore City welcomes BBC for donuts and coffee and a look at waterfowl in Baltimore Harbor. Landbirding is also good. Then on to nearby Middle Branch Park, another good spot for water birds.
12/7/2019	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Trip to Sandy Point SP	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson, 410-353-3776 or hal.lynn@comcast.net. Description: We should see a large variety of ducks, hawks and wintering passerines. Dress warmly as it is chilly along the bay. Meet at Bay 50.
12/7/2019	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com) for more information. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Rt 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed.
12/7/2019	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club, Audubon and Maryland Zoo. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! Meet at 3001 East Drive.
12/7/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Mariner Point Park	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Phil Powers, birdsinmd308@gmail.com or 410-679-4116. Description: Take a leisurely walk along the scenic 1.1 mile paved, level trail. Its location along the Gunpowder River draws a variety of birds. You might spot a fox and black squirrels as well.
12/8/19	7 AM – 12 PM	White Marsh Park Bird Trip	Host: Talbot County Bird Club. Leader Danny Poet (401-827-8651). Description: Over 300 acres of warm season grasses with adjacent wooded ravine will give us an opportunity to view a variety of species. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM.
12/8/2019	8 – 11 AM	Birding at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Dotty Doherty, 443-926-3054 or dottyholcombdoher@gmail.com. Description: Monthly walk on paved paths through habitat that includes mature deciduous forest, wood edges, mowed fields, wetlands, and a native plant garden, along with river views.
12/8/2019	9 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful.



Atlantic Puffin. Image Credit: Michael Saylor.



**M E M B E R   P H O T O S**



Top: Polar  
Bears fighting.

Right:  
Walruses in  
water.

Images Credit:  
Carol Swan.



Submit your photo to *The Yellowthroat*. Visit <https://mdbirds.org/publications/the-yellowthroat/> for submission guidelines.



## BIRDING

12/8/2019	All Day	Trip to Cambridge Waterfront and Blackwater	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: Two stops on Cambridge waterfront for ducks and other waterfowl. Then on to Blackwater for ducks, geese, swans, shorebirds and some land birds. Bring lunch, water, snacks. Scopes useful. Meet 7 AM at Nursery Road P&R or 10:30 AM at Blackwater Visitor Center. Canceled in bad weather. Carpooling encouraged. Reserve your place with the leader.
12/8/2019	All Day	Trip to Blackwater NWR	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Contact leader Mark England, 240-207-3132(home) or 240-375-4500 (cell), for meeting time and place. Description: Early waterfowl and lingering migrants plus late afternoon marsh watch. Bring lunch and drinks. Reservations required. Limit 12.
12/14/2019	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Audubon. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in Southeast Baltimore. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of East Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave.
12/14/2019	8 AM – 2 PM	Howard Waterfowl Search	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Kurt Schwarz, kurtschwarz4@gmail.com or 410-461-1643. Description: Search for gulls, ducks, grebes, loons and other waterfowl. Easy walking involved. Plan to carpool. Bring lunch and drinks. Scopes helpful. Facilities available. Meet at Broken Land Parkway P&R west side.
12/14/2019	All Day	Birding at Patuxent	Host: YMOS. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip. Description: We will combine a morning trip with a workshop on Breeding Bird Atlas Protocols.
12/15/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Talbot Landings and Fields Bird Trip	Host: Talbot County Bird Club. Leader Charles Hopkins (443-786-6332). Description: In the past we have seen large numbers of pipits, horned larks and sparrows along the roads and landings. Depart: Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM.
12/19/2019	3 – 5 PM	Birding at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
12/21/2019	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile east of Rt 301. No reservations needed.
12/21/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader David Sandler, 410-370-0747. Alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Canceled in bad weather. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side.
12/21/2019	All Day	Trip to Blackwater NWR	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact leader Kathy Calvert, 301-810-5677 for meeting time and location. Description: Search for wintering waterfowl at Maryland's premier wildlife refuge. Mostly driving with frequent stops. Scopes helpful.
12/22/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Loch Raven	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net and Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Description: Morning trip to see ducks, grebes, coots, and other water birds. Scopes useful. Trip canceled in snow, rain, or slippery conditions. RSVP required in case trip is canceled.
12/29/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Patuxent South Tract	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For further information, contact the leader, Ken Cohen, at kvulture@aol.com. Description: One of a series of walks to explore the seasonal variations in bird use of the habitats at South Tract. Be prepared to walk up to 2 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Meet at 7:30 AM in the parking lot of the National Wildlife Visitor Center.
1/1/20	10 – 11:30 AM	Bird Walk, First Day Hike C&O Canal Terminus	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Raquel Ketterman at raquelketterman@verizon.net or 301-268-6746. Description: First Day Hike is co-hosted with Allegany Center for Life-Long Learning. Meet at the mule statue at Cumberland's Western MD Railroad Station. Walk as far as you wish on the canal looking for winter waterfowl, bald eagles and other winter birds.
1/1/2020	8 AM – 12 PM	Start Your Year List	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net or 410-461-1643. Description: Easy walking on woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year where every bird is new! Facilities available. Meet at the Howard Conservancy – Mount Pleasant Farm.



1/1/2020	8 AM – 12 PM	Earliest Bird Walk - Georgetown Reservoir and DC/VA Hotspots	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For reservations contact leader Mike Bowen, dhmbowen@yahoo.com or 301-530-5764. Description: Start the New Year right. Meet at Georgetown Reservoir by the gate leading to the dike between the pools. Reservations required. Strict limit: 20 participants who absolutely must be prepared to carpool. (No singletons!)
1/1/2020	8:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at North Point SP	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Description: Start the New Year birding. Varied habitats including marsh, woods and beach. Expect waterfowl, sparrows and raptors. Scopes useful. Advise boots if we have had a lot of rain. Entrance fee \$4 unless you have pass.
1/2/2020	3 – 5 PM	Birding at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
1/4/2020	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com) for more information. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed.
1/5/2020	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Birding at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact: Alan Young at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: Join us for the monthly walk along paved paths as well as grass and dirt paths through varied habitat.

## MEETINGS

11/1/2019	7 – 9 PM	Churchville Presbyterian Church	Host: Harford Bird Club. Description: Gabriel Foley will speak on Atlasing Birds in Maryland.
11/5/2019	7 – 9 PM	Cylburn Arboretum	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Description: Lindsey Jacks of Lights Out Baltimore – “Saving Birds One Building at a Time”.
11/6/2019	7 – 9 PM	Carroll Non-profit Center	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact CJ McAuliffe at cjhome@wildblue.net. Description: “Birds in a Changing Arctic” presented by Dr. Didem Ikis.
11/7/2019	7 – 9 PM	Homewood at Crumland Farms	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Description: George Radcliffe and youth members Oliver Patrick and Forrest Baublitz will talk about the activities of YMOS.
11/12/2019	7 – 9 PM	College Park Airport Operations Building	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Description: Chasing a Desert Apparition: LeConte’s Thrasher, presented by Jay Sheppard.
11/13/2019	7 – 9 PM	Potomac Presbyterian Church	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Description: Clive Harris will hold a Gull Workshop.
11/14/2019	7 – 9 PM	Robinson Nature Center	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Description: Bill Mahoney will speak on “The Howard County Green Infrastructure Network: An approach to defending biodiversity and ecosystem services”
11/18/2019	7 – 9 PM	Bayleigh Chase Auditorium	Host: Talbot County Bird Club. Description: Jesse Phillips will speak on “Saving Penguins From Extinction”.
11/20/2019	7 – 9 PM	Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Description: “Chasing a Desert Apparition: LeConte’s Thrasher” with Jay Sheppard.

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: <https://mdbirds.org/calendar/>.



## MEETINGS

11/21/2019	7 – 9 PM	Caroline County Public Library	Host: Caroline Bird Club. Description: Jim Rapp, presenter. "The Business of Birding & Conservation on Delmarva".
11/25/2019	7 – 9:30 PM	MAC Education Center	Host: Trip-county Bird Club. Description: Peter Kaestner will present "From Zero to 9000 – A Life of Listing".
11/26/2019	7 – 9 PM	Mt. Aetna Nature Center	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Description: Program is two videos: "Raptors" and "Sparrows"
12/4/2019	7 – 9 PM	Carroll Non-profit Center	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact CJ McAuliffe at <a href="mailto:cjhome@wildblue.net">cjhome@wildblue.net</a> . Description: "The Radio Telemetry Research Project—Tracking Soras to Surprising Places" presented by Greg Kearns.
12/5/2019	6 – 9 PM	Homewood at Crumland Farms	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Description: Holiday Dinner, Silent Auction, and Bruce Beehler will be the featured speaker, on "North on the Wing – Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring".
12/7/2019	10 AM – 12 PM	Conowingo Visitors Center	Host: Cecil Bird Club. Description: MOS Board Meeting.
12/10/2019	7 – 9 PM	College Park Airport Operations Building	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Description: Annual Holiday Social and Movie Night.
12/11/2019	7 – 9 PM	Potomac Presbyterian Church	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Description: Wine and Cheese Party
12/12/2019	7 – 9 PM	Robinson Nature Center	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Description: Speaker Dr. Peter Marra, author of "Cat Wars -Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer".
12/12/2019	7 – 9 PM	Heron Point	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Description: Speaker TBA
12/18/2019	7 – 9 PM	Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Description: "Cape May Capers, a talk on the birds and birding sites of Cape May and environs" with Kurt Schwarz

Please watch your mail! MOS will soon send members a notice describing important MOS projects and asking you to consider MOS in your year-end giving.  
Thank you in advance for your support!



## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

12/14/2019	CBC: Allegany	Compiler: J.B. Churchill, jchurchi@atlanticbb.net or 301-697-1223
12/14/2019	CBC: Catoctin	Compiler: Kathy Brown 301-865-1369 or kathybrown07@verizon.net.
12/14/2019	CBC: Denton	Compiler: Steve Westre, swestre26@comcast.net
12/14/2019	CBC: Oakland	Compiler: Connie Skipper, connieskipper@hohnet.com or 301-387-5227 or 240-321-8021
12/14/2019	CBC: Triadelphia Reservoir	Compiler: David Holmes, musiclbndr@gmail.com or 410-730-7083
12/14/2019	CBC: Wachapreague, VA	Compiler: Marilyn Ailes, imailes@verizon.net or 757-824-0608
12/14/2019	CBC: Washington County, MD	Compiler: Mark Abdy, 301-432-7696 or mjabdy@yahoo.com
12/14/2019	CBC: Washington, DC	Compiler: Larry Cartwright: prowarbler@verizon.net
12/14/2019	CBC: York, PA	Compiler: Bernard Frick, bernardfrick@alum.lehigh.edu. Alternate date Dec 21
12/15/2019	CBC: Baltimore	Compiler: Kevin Graff, 410-967- 5896 (text only) or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com
12/15/2019	CBC: Bombay Hook, DE	Compiler: Andy Ednie, ednieap@verizon.net or 301-792-9591
12/15/2019	CBC: Charles Town, WV	Compiler: Bob Dean, dean8189@gmail.com
12/15/2019	CBC: Elkton	Compiler: Russ Kovach, russell.kovach@gmail.com or 443-386-4787



## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

12/15/2019	CBC: Jug Bay	Compiler: Marcia Watson, marshwren50@comcast.net
12/15/2019	CBC: Manassas/Bull Run, VA	Compiler: Phil Silas, epsdcva@aol.com or register online at <a href="http://www.audubonva.org/christmas-bird-count/">http://www.audubonva.org/christmas-bird-count/</a>
12/15/2019	CBC: Nassawadox, VA	Compiler: Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com
12/15/2019	CBC: Port Tobacco	Compiler: Mike Callahan, raptorsrulemc@gmail.com or 240-765-5192
12/15/2019	CBC: Salisbury	Compiler: Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net
12/15/2019	CBC: Seneca (MD and VA)	Compiler: Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net
12/15/2019	CBC: The Plains/Airlie, VA	Compiler: Bert Harris, bharris@cliftoninstitute.org
12/16/2019	CBC: Brooke, VA (Stafford/Lower Potomac)	Compiler: Laurle Bybell, lbybell@gmail.com or David Govaini, david.govani@gmail.com
12/22/2019	CBC: Chesterville	Compiler: Maren Gimpel, maren.gimpel@gmail.com
12/22/2019	CBC: Nokesville, VA	Compiler: Kim Hosen, 703-499-4954 or kim@pwconserve.org
12/22/2019	CBC: Southern Dorchester	Compiler: Bruce Peterjohn, bpeterjohn@usgs.gov
12/27/2019	CBC: Crisfield	Compiler: Paul Bystrak, shrike@comcast.net
12/28/2019	CBC: Central Loudoun (VA and MD)	Compiler: Joe Coleman, joecoleman@rstarmail.com or 540-554-2542. Sign up at <a href="http://www.loudounwildlife.org">www.loudounwildlife.org</a>



## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

12/28/2019	CBC: Harford/Rock Run	Compiler: Mark Johnson, marksjohnson2@gmail.com
12/28/2019	CBC: Ocean City	Compiler: Mark Hoffman, wcbirding@gmail.com or 443-223-4587
12/28/2019	CBC: Rehoboth, DE	Compiler: Sally O'Byrne, salobyrne@gmail.com
12/29/2019	CBC: Fort Belvoir, VA	Compiler: Kurt Gaskill, kurtcap87@verizon.net or 703-768-2171; MD sector leader Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com
12/29/2019	CBC: Lititz, PA (114th year)	Compiler: Ted Nichols II, tanicholsii@gmail.com or 717-856-3851
12/29/2019	CBC: Patuxent River	Compiler: Andrew Brown, andrew.brown@calvertcountymd.gov or 410-535-5327
12/29/2019	CBC: Sugarloaf Mountain	Compiler: Janet Millenson, Janet@twocrows.comor 301-346-4713
12/30/2019	CBC: Cape Charles, VA	Compiler: George Armistead, armistead.george@gmail.com and Ned Brinkley, thalassoica@gmail.com
1/1/2020	CBC: Bowie	Compiler: David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net
1/4/2020	Audrey Carroll Mid-winter Count	Compiler: David Smith, 443-995-4108
1/4/2020	CBC: Calmes Neck, VA	Compiler: Margaret Wester, margaretwester@hotmail.com. Deadline to sign up 12/18.
1/4/2020	CBC: Inwood, WV	Compiler: Bob Dean, dean8189@gmail.com
1/4/2020	CBC: Lancaster, PA	Coordinator Barbara Hunsberger (phunsberger@comcast.net or 717-984-2738); Roger Stoner (717-393-9030) is the contact person for volunteers.
1/5/2020	CBC: Annapolis, Gibson Island	Compilers: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson, hal.lynn@comcast.net

Please watch your mail! MOS will soon send members a notice describing important MOS projects and asking you to consider MOS in your year-end giving. Thank you in advance for your support!

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